



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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ANNOUNCE HUNTING RULES FOR DOVES, RAILS, AND GALLINULES

Hunting regulations which will apply during the 1952-53 season for the shooting of doves, band-tailed pigeons, rails, gallinules, scoter, eider, and old-squaw ducks, and waterfowl in Alaska, were announced today by Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman.

The detailed regulations for migratory waterfowl and woodcock hunting in the United States, however, will not be issued until the latter part of August, the Secretary stated.

The changes in the seasons on doves, rails, and gallinules have followed consultations between the Fish and Wildlife Service and officials of the various State conservation agencies concerned.

In submitting the proposed regulations to the States, Albert M. Day, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, advised that more information than ever before has gathered this year on the status of the mourning doves. "East of the Mississippi River this species is in about the same numerical status as it was a year ago, possibly a little better. Some improvement in production has been recorded in the Southeast but this is offset by reduced production in States north of Tennessee and North Carolina. West of the Mississippi River it appears that there has been very little change. The regulations which the Service has drawn up for this year, therefore, are almost the same as a year ago."

Adjustments of seasons for hunting mourning doves have been made in several States, and Illinois and Missouri have been included with those States where the hunting of these birds in season is permitted only from noon until sunset each day. No season for hunting mourning doves in the Atlantic or Mississippi Flyways will extend beyond January 10. At the request of State authorities, a September 1 to September 15 season for mourning doves is authorized for Washington. The season for hunting white-winged doves in Imperial County in California has been lengthened by 15 days to conform with the mourning dove season in that State. Another change is the closing, upon request of the Oklahoma Game and Fish Department, of the season on rails and gallinules in that State.

OPEN SEASONS: ATLANTIC FLYWAY STATES

Rails and Gallinules:

Delaware, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia, September 1-October 30.

Connecticut, September 1-October 15.  
Maryland, September 1-October 20.  
Florida and Georgia, September 15-November 13.  
Massachusetts, October 20-October 30.  
South Carolina, October 1-November 29.  
Puerto Rico, December 15-February 12.

In Maine and New York the season will conform to that for migratory waterfowl.

Scoter, Eider and Old-Squaw Ducks:

In Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and New York, these ducks may be taken in open coastal waters only, beyond outer harbor lines, from September 28 through December 31; in Connecticut the season for these birds extends from October 17 through December 31; and in Rhode Island from September 28 through January 5. In areas other than those beyond outer harbor lines, such birds may be taken during the open seasons for other ducks. In these States only the daily bag limit is 7 scoter, eider or old-squaw ducks singly or in the aggregate, and not more than 14 in possession singly or in the aggregate.

Mourning Doves:

Delaware, October 1-30.  
Florida, October 1-15 and December 15-29.  
Georgia, September 15-29 and December 25-January 8.  
Maryland, September 15-29 and November 15-29.  
North Carolina, October 1-15 and December 27-January 10.  
Pennsylvania, September 15-October 14.  
South Carolina, September 15-29 and December 27-January 10.  
Virginia, September 16-30 and October 17-31.

OPEN SEASONS: MISSISSIPPI FLYWAY STATES

Rails and Gallinules:

Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, and Ohio, ~~September 1-30.~~ *Sept 1-Oct. 30.*  
Minnesota, September 16-November 14.  
Louisiana, October 1-November 30.  
Mississippi, October 15-December 13.

In Alabama, Michigan, and Wisconsin, the season will conform to that for migratory waterfowl, except that in Wisconsin hunting on the opening day will start at 1:00 p.m.

Mourning Doves:

Alabama, October 17-31 and December 27-January 10.  
Arkansas, September 15-October 14.  
Illinois, September 1-30.  
Kentucky, September 1-30.  
Louisiana, December 12-January 10.  
Mississippi, October 15-29 and December 27-January 10.  
Missouri, September 1-30.  
Tennessee, September 15-29 and October 16-30.

OPEN SEASONS: CENTRAL FLYWAY STATES

Rails and Gallinules:

Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming, September 1--October 30.

In New Mexico the season for hunting rails and gallinules will conform to the waterfowl season.

Mourning Doves:

Colorado, September 1-October 12.  
Kansas, September 1-30.  
Nebraska, September 1-30.  
New Mexico, September 1-October 12.  
Oklahoma, September 1-30.

In Texas the season and shooting hours for mourning doves in Val Verde, Kinney, Uvalde, Medina, Bexar, Comal, Hays, Travis, Williamson, Milam, Robertson, Leon, Houston, Cherokee, Nacogdoches, and Shelby counties and all counties north and west thereof, September 1-October 10, 12:00 noon until sunset. In Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, Zapata, Webb, Maverick, Dimmit, La Salle, Jim Hogg, Brooks, Kenedy, and Willacy counties, September 12, 14, and 16 from 4:00 p.m. until sunset and from October 1 to November 6 from 12:00 noon until sunset. In the rest of the State, October 1 to November 9, from 12:00 noon until sunset.

White-winged Doves:

In Texas the season and shooting hours for white-winged doves in Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, Zapata, Webb, Maverick, Kinney, Dimmit, La Salle, Jim Hogg, Brooks, Kenedy, Willacy, Val Verde, Terrell, Brewster, Presidio, Jeff Davis, Culberson, Hudspeth, and El Paso counties, September 12, 14, and 16 from 4:00 p.m. until sunset; no open season in rest of State.

OPEN SEASONS: PACIFIC FLYWAY STATES

Rails and Gallinules:

Arizona and Utah, September 1-October 30.

Mourning Doves:

Arizona, September 1-30.  
California, September 1-30.

Idaho, no open season on mourning doves in Boundary, Bonner, Benewah, Shoshone, Kootenai, Latah, Clearwater, Nez Perce, Lewis, Idaho, Bear Lake, Caribou, and Teton counties; in rest of State, September 1-15.

Nevada, September 1-30.  
Oregon, September 1-15.  
Utah, September 1-10.  
Washington, September 1-15.

White-Winged Doves:

Arizona, September 1-15.

California, Imperial County, September 1-30.

Band-tailed Pigeons:

California, September 16-30 and December 17-31.

Oregon, September 1-30.

Washington, September 1-30.

DAILY BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS

Rails and Gallinules--In all flyways, not more than 15 in the aggregate of rails (other than sora) and gallinules.

Sora--The daily bag and possession limit in all flyways is 25 birds, except in Florida where the limit is 15 singly or in the aggregate of all rails, including sora and gallinules.

Mourning or Turtle Doves--In the States of the Atlantic and Mississippi flyways wherein hunted, the bag and possession limit is 8 birds; in the States of the other two flyways, the limit is 10 birds.

White-winged Doves--In Texas, Arizona, and Imperial County in California, the daily bag and possession limit for white-winged or mourning doves is not more than 10 singly or in the aggregate of both kinds.

Band-tailed Pigeons--Daily bag and possession limit is 6 birds in California, Oregon, and Washington, the only States having an open season.

DAILY SHOOTING HOURS

Rails and Gallinules--The general shooting hours for these birds will be one-half hour before sunrise to sunset but when they are hunted coincident with the hunting season for waterfowl, shooting must cease one hour before sunset. In Massachusetts the starting hour on the first day of the season will be 12 o'clock noon.

Scoter, Eider and Old-Squaw Ducks--One-half hour before sunrise to one hour before sunset, except on the opening day of the season when shooting begins at 12 noon.

Doves and Pigeons--In those States of the Atlantic and Mississippi flyways which have a dove shooting season, the hours extend from 12 o'clock noon until sunset. In the Central Flyway, doves may be hunted from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset, except in Texas where certain hours apply for both mourning and white-winged doves (as noted) and in New Mexico where the shooting hours on the first day of the season will be from 12 o'clock noon until sunset but thereafter from sunrise to sunset. In the Pacific Flyway States where doves and pigeons are hunted, the hours are one-half hour before sunrise until sunset.

## WATERFOWL REGULATIONS FOR ALASKA

In Alaska the seasons and bag limits for hunting ducks, geese, brant, and coot are as follows:

In the First Judicial Division and the Kodiak-Afognak Island group, September 20 to November 13. In the Second, Third (except Kodiak-Afognak Island group) and Fourth Judicial Divisions, September 1 to October 25; provided that scoter, eider and merganser ducks also may be taken in the Third Judicial Division west of 152° west longitude from September 7 to December 21, and in the Second and Fourth Judicial Divisions from September 1 to December 15.

The daily bag limit for scoters and eiders is 10 singly or in the aggregate of all kinds and the possession limit is not more than 20 singly or in the aggregate. The daily bag limit for American and red-breasted mergansers is 25 singly or in the aggregate of both kinds with no possession limit after the first day of the season. Limits for other ducks not over 5 a day with 10 in possession. Other limits: coot, 15 daily and 15 in possession; brant, 3 daily and 3 in possession; geese, 3 daily and 6 in possession of one kind or in the aggregate of all kinds.

Shooting hours will be the same as last year, one-half hour before sunrise to one hour before sunset, except on the opening day when shooting begins at 12 noon.

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